

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055696
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 L-03 TRSE-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/V:SPATTERSON
APPROVED BY ARA - MR. LUERS
ARA/AND - MR. DEVINE
EUR/WE - K. SMITH (SUBSTANCE)
ARA/PPC/PM - S. QUIGG
DOD - L. MAY
PM/ISO - CDR. JACK BURGESS
-----122207Z 012217 /67
R 120259Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, MOPS, VE, US, PO

SUBJECT: FAV C-130 CRASH - PRESENTATION OF BILL

REF: (A) 76 CARACAS 13239, (B) 76 CARACAS 10722,
(C) 77 LISBON 1081

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE AWARE THAT PRESENTATION OF THE
BILL TO THE FAV MAY HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND WE HAVE PURSUED ALL POSSIBLE
MEANS TO AVOID IT.

2. MAC, WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE APPROVAL, IS
FUNDED ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS. THIS MEANS THAT EACH
USING AGENCY MUST PAY, AT PRE-AGREED RATES, FOR SERVICES
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PROVIDED. THUS, IN THIS CASE, DEPARTMENT HAD TO CITE ITS
OWN FUNDS BEFORE DOD COULD DIRECT MAC TO PROVIDE
SERVICES. WITHOUT A USG FUNDING CITATION, DOD WILL NOT
RESPOND TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTS. BASED ON REFTEL C IN
WHICH IT WAS STATED THAT VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE WOULD
REIMBURSE FOR THIS SERVICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED FUNDING
CITATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT INQUIRY ABOUT POSSIBLE
WAIVER OF BILLING, LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE

SECRETARY OF U.S. AIR FORCE STATES QUOTE THERE IS AN
IMPORTANT PRECEDENT HERE WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER
AS THIS CASE IS REVIEWED. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFTEN
ASKS DEFENSE AND, IN TURN, THE AIR FORCE FOR REIMBURSABLE
MAC AIRLIFT. THE REQUEST IS USUALLY VERY TIME SENSITIVE
AND REACTION TIMES SHORT. REIMBURSEMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT OF ANY USE OF MAC ASSETS, AND THE AIR FORCE
WOULD NOT WISH TO BE PLACED IN THE POSITION, IN EACH CASE
PRIOR TO ACCEPTING THE MISSION, OF HAVING TO QUESTION
STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PAY FOR THE AIRLIFT. UNQUOTE.

4. CLEARLY, THEN, SOMEONE HAS TO PAY. DEPARTMENT HAS
PURSUED ALL AVENUES IN DOD, STATE AND AID, AND UNFORTUNATE-
LY THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE EVIDENT TO ALL
AGENCIES ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE
BUREAUCRATIC GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY DISBURSEMENT OF
FUNDS. ACCORDINGLY, IT APPEARS THAT THE BILL WILL HAVE TO
BE PRESENTED TO THE VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE.

5. MAC HEADQUARTERS, SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS, ON NOVEMBER 26,
1976, FORMALLY PRESENTED THE BILL, WHICH TOTALS \$37,347,
TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL. BILL
REFLECTS THE RATE MAC CHARGES AGENCIES OF THE USG RATHER
THAN THE MUCH HIGHER RATE THAT MUST BE CHARGED NON-USG
USERS OF MAC SERVICES. DEPARTMENT IS APPROVING PAYMENT OF
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THIS BILL BY DEPARTMENT FUNDS TO MAC, HAVING FAILED TO
FIND ANY SOURCE OF FUNDS IN USG TO COVER COST, DEPARTMENT
WILL THEN FORWARD BILL TO EMBASSY CARACAS FOR PRESENTATION
TO THE FAV. WE REGRET THE AWKWARD POSITION PRESENTATION
OF BILL WILL PLACE UPON AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI AND EMBASSY
CARACAS.
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Message Attributes

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